Application No. 10/776,527
Amendment dated November 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2007

Docket No.: 0698-0173P

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 are independent and new claims 7 and 8 have been added.

Amendments to the Claim

Claims 7 and 8 are newly added according to the descriptions on page 6, lines 11-16 of the specification. No new matter is introduced.

Consideration of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejection

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henry et al. (US Patent No. 7,028,104). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in claim 1, the present invention features in a detection module for performing a counting process to count to a predetermined value where the detection module detects whether the network connection module has successfully connected to the network.

However, referring to column 7, lines 12-19 of Henry et al., the iDriver waits for a DHCP server on the local access network to send back a DHCP-Offer packet at 302 in response to the DHCP-Discover packet received from the MH; and if the associated system timer times out in this state at 304 (which means the iDriver has not received the expected DHCP-Offer packet within 100 ms), Windows[R] calls the time-out thread at 306.

It is noted that the timer does not time out if DHCP-Offer packet is received, while the timer times out if DHCP-Offer packet is not received in Henry et al. However, the present

5

KM/lab

Docket No.: 0698-0173P

invention teaches a detection module for performing a counting process to count to a predetermined value, wherein as the predetermined value is reached, the detection module detects whether the network connection module has successfully connected to the network. Obviously, the design of the present invention is different from Henry et al. Therefore, claim 1 of the present invention is not anticipated by Henry et al.

Furthermore, as recited in claim 4, the self-activating network connection method of the present invention comprises the steps of: (1) performing a counting process after the computer system is turned on; (2) having the computer system determine whether the counting process has counted to a predetermined value; if no, returning to step (2) to continue the counting process; if yes, proceeding to step (3); (3) having the computer system detect whether the network connection module has connected to the network; if yes, having the computer system connect to the network via the network connection module and terminating the self-activating network connection process; if no, proceeding to step (4); (4) having the computer system send an activation signal and information required for the network connection process to the network driving module; and (5) having the network driving module drive the network connection module to perform the network connection process, and having the computer system perform the counting process again from the beginning and returning to step (2).

However, referring to column 7, lines 19-23 of Henry et al., the time out thread carries out the following instant actions: (1) regeneration of the DHCP-Discover packet at 308; and (2) passage of the DHCP-Discover packet to the underlying NIC driver at 310.

It is to be emphasized that if DHCP-offer packet is not received, the DHCP-Discover packet is regenerated and passed to the NIC in Henry et al. However, as recited in steps (3)-(5) of

6   KM/lab

claim 4 of the present invention, if the network connection module is not connected to the network, the network connection module is driven to perform the network connection process, and the computer system performs the counting process again. Hence, the method of the present invention is significantly different from that of Henry et al. Therefore, claim 4 of the present invention is not anticipated by Henry et al.

Moreover, the present invention provides a self-activating network connection system and method which self-activates a network initialization process for a computer system such that manual setting of parameters or restarting the computer system become unnecessary. It is believed that the difference between the present invention and Henry et al. is non-obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Henry et al., and thus claims 2-3 and 5-8 depending thereupon are also patentable over Henry et al.

Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance for this application.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

7

KM/lab

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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8

KM/lab